Government in May, 1992, at a revised estimated cost of Rs. 3954 crores. The modernisation work is being executed in two phases i.e. Phase I & II. Major production facilities under Phase-I modernisation have been completed and facilities under Phase-II are in advanced stage of completion. These include New Sinter Plant, Raw Material Handling System, New Basic Oxygen Furnace Shop, Continuous Casting Shop and Upgradation of Hot Strip Mill. The cumulative expenditure upto January, 1996 is Rs. 2681 crores.

जवाहर रोजगार योजना के अन्तर्गत दरभंगा में वितरित हैंड पम्प

139. **श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय :** क्या ग्रामीण क्षेत्र और रोजगार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) वर्ष 1994-95 में जवाहर रोजगार योजना के अन्तर्गत दरभंगा (बिहार) में कुल कितने हैंड पम्प वितरित किए गए;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि जनसंख्या के अनुपात में या अन्य जिलों की तुलना में यह संख्या न के बराबर है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(घ) वर्ष 1995-96 में ऐसे कितने हैंड पम्प वितरित किए जाने की संभावना है?

ग्रामीण क्षेत्र और रोजगार तथा कृषि मंत्री (डा. जगन्नाथ मिश्र): (क) मार्गदर्शिकाओं के अनुसार, हैण्डपम्प लगाने जैसी गतिविधियां जवाहर रोजगार योजना के अन्तर्गत शुरू नहीं की जाती हैं। जवाहर रोजगार योजना मुख्य रूप से मजदूरी रोजगार योजना है जिसके अन्तर्गत उच्चतर मजदूरी घटक सहित सामाजिक एवं सामुदायिक परिसम्पत्तियों का सृजन किया जाता है।

(ख) से (घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Leasing of Mines for Iron-Ore Exploration

140. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of mines now proposed to be leased out for iron-ore exploration to private sector during the year 1996;

(b) whether it is a fact that the NMDC is being denied the right to undertake further jobs in this direction despite its capabilities (NMDC);

(c) if so, the facts thereof;

(d) whether Government would still review the position and prevent transfer of lease of mines to private sector; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) (a) Ministry of Mines have received only 8 proposals during 1996 so far for grant/renewal of Prospecting Licences (PL) Mining Leases (ML) for iron ore from the State Governments and these proposals are under consideration.

(b) and (c) The estimated demand for finished steel by 2001-02 is expected to be around 37 million tonnes and the production from the existing public and private sector steel plants by that year will be around 24 million tonnes. The Government does not propose to set up any new steel plant in the public sector. Therefore, the gap of 13 million tonnes will have to be met by the new steel plants in the private sector. Entrepreneurs proposing to set up large iron and steel plants are seeking captive iron ore mines for assured supply of raw material. The National Mineral Development Corporation Limited (NMDC) proposes to take up several projects in next five years requiring a total investment of Rs. 1400 crores approximately. Taking these factors into consideration Government permitted NMDC to develop one project in joint venture with a private sector company.

(d) and (e) As per the provisions of the Mines & Minerals (Regulation & Development) (MMRD) Act, 1957, the State Governments are required to obtain prior approval of the Central Government for grant, renewal or transfer of PL/ML in respect of the scheduled minerals, i.e. minerals listed in the First Schedule to the MMRD Act, which include iron ore. Ministry of Mines have issued guidelines about consultation with Ministry of steel in regard to grant of PL/ML and renewal of ML cases. Preference is given to the claims of public sector companies under Section 11 of the MMRD Act.